



Background Paper

Committee: General Assembly

Topic: The Restructuring of International Ideologies Regarding Social Justice

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Social justice can be defined in many different ways due to the extensive list of topics it covers and the concept being relatively new, emerging in the 19th century during the period of the Industrial Revolution and the beginnings of socialism as an intent to create more egalitarian societies and sort the labor exploitation of the time. It was not until the mid-20th century that social justice started adopting other social matters apart from economic inequality; therefore, it can be defined as equality in rights, treatment, and opportunity. In a utopian world, every person would enjoy the same, equal rights; but in reality, social injustice comes in all sizes and forms, including but not limited to: racial discrimination, ageism, sexuality and gender, child welfare and poverty, and economic injustice. The importance of the topic relies on the fact that it involves every person in the world as it comes on personal/individual and global scales, in one way or another, people experience social injustice in their lifetime; also the massive diffusion and awareness it gets around social media makes it a trending topic. Social justice has grown in popularity among society in the past few decades, having more people joining social movements like BLM, feminist movement, LGBTQ rights movement, among others; all of them aiming one goal: equal human rights. People broke the silence towards injustice and united to fight it.

The social justice movement made people reflect on the differences and inequalities between the rich and poor, stirring debate and beginning to form its exact concept and goals. Since then this concept has expanded to become one of the prevalent topics and needs. Today social justice is more oriented towards human rights and the quality of life of all individuals. In a nutshell, social justice focuses on distributing essential needs, guaranteeing basic rights, and improving the quality of life of the different underprivileged groups and individuals. The United Nations has involved itself in social justice since the 1960s and argues the importance of highlighting the difference between human rights and social justice. Both concepts are linked and social justice has been seen as a way to reinforce human rights and attend to them. However, human rights are highly focused on individuals and their own persons' safety, on the other hand, social justice is an international and a joint effort, which made it a United Nation oriented subject to discuss.

So far, many efforts have been stressed through the years to attend social justice. Many non-governmental organizations help achieve this goal. CARE is an NGO dedicated to abolish poverty and begin the journey to social justice. Social justice is about socioeconomic equality as well, so such efforts are paving the way toward social justice. Norway, Slovenia, and Sweden are some of the countries with the most egalitarian distribution of wealth. Around the world, about 680,500,000 people live in poverty, achieving socio-economic justice is a target which challenges the success of achieving social justice. When talking about safety and health, Cordaid, an NGO that bases itself on distributing humanitarian aid and health care, sex education, and security. For more than 8 years humanitarian aid remained the same, but in 2019 it dropped from \$31.2 billion to around \$29.6 billion. The United States and Germany are two of the biggest humanitarian aid contributors in the world, while Canada and Denmark have some of the best and equal health attention. Other organizations from the UN also make efforts against insufficient health care and distribution of humanitarian aid, such as WHO and UN Refugee Agency respectively. Education is another large aspect of social justice, organizations like UNICEF have made great efforts to achieve universal education. The Netherlands, Ireland, and France have admirable equity and high school enrollments. These and many other NGOs within and outside of the United Nations, are perfect examples of the efforts taken to achieve social justice. Some of the most important and key points to engineering order to reach social justice are; equity, basic resource availability, active participation and efforts, diversity acceptance, and fulfilling human rights. Taking into consideration this point and based on the Justice Index some of the leading countries toward social justice are Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.

Human rights, access, participation, and equity sustain social justice, as it ensures equal welfare for everyone. In the present, this is an important topic due to its popularity around the world and the various movements that had emerged in an attempt to eliminate social injustice. Trying to define social justice can be hard, as it includes numerous affairs and countless opinions and points of view; but one thing everyone can agree on is that the deconstruction of old ideologies is essential to rebuild the world we live in into an egalitarian society. Consequently, the reconstruction of said ideologies is a vital duty only worthy of a committee like the General Assembly.

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